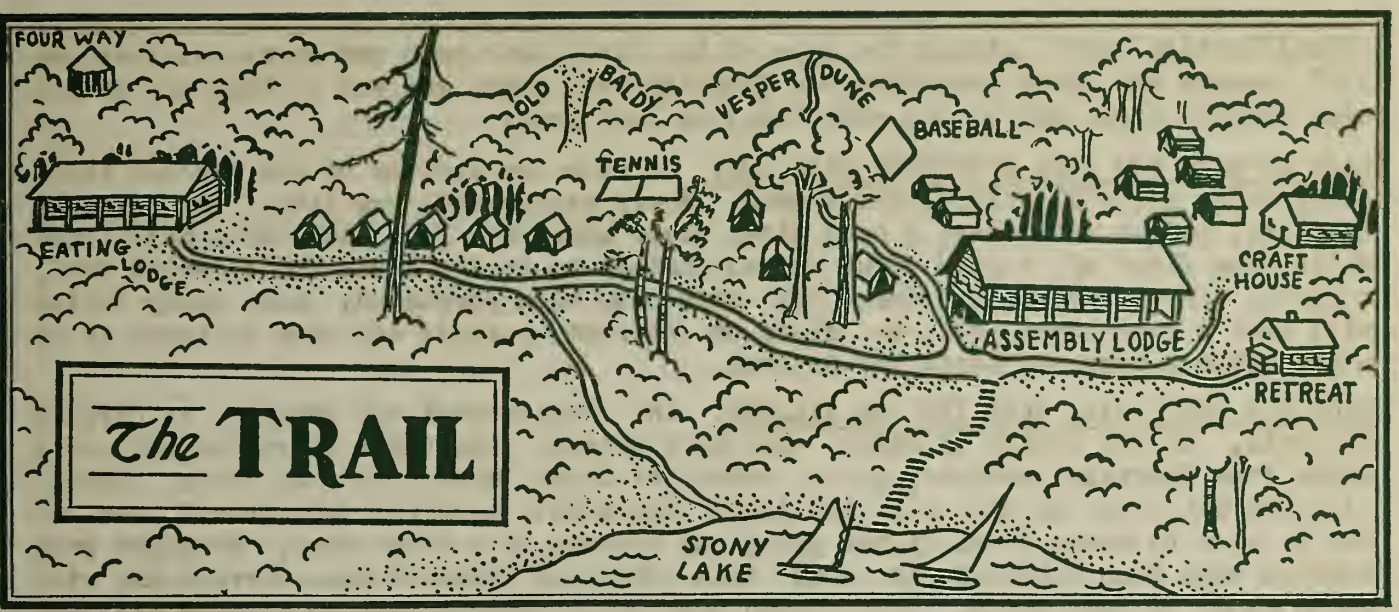

The TRAIL

Official Newsletter of the Miniwanca Younger Boys and Pre-Senior Camps

AMERICAN YOUTH FOUNDATION, 3930 Lindell Boulevard, St. Louis 8, Mo.

M A Y 1 9 5 5

"I Love To Go A-wandering"

ON SANDY TRAIL AND DUNE, and it won't be long now. In about seven weeks we'll be hitting it for Camp Miniwanca, and Stony Lake, Stony Creek, Lake Michigan and the three hundred acres of terrific camping country in the famed "wooded" sand dunes of Western Michigan.

YOU FIRST YEAR CAMPERS who will be having your first experience at Miniwanca will see plenty of "Sandy Trails and Dunes", for this is the Dune Country - just about the finest camping territory that can be found anywhere. Old campers will immediately recall the fun we have playing on the steep slopes of "Old Baldy" - a 300 foot mountain of pure clean sand, and hiking over the Michigan Trail to the Michigan Beach.

AND OVER THERE ON LAKE MICHIGAN - all kinds of fun and good times await you. The many trips to the Michigan waters,when the surf is riding high and you have barrels of fun breasting the waves in safe, knee deep water. The beach parties when each tent-cabin group builds its own fire and cooks its own meal. The sand modeling, building sand forts, digging intricate canals and inland lakes or pools, playing King of the Mountain and scores of other good fun games. "On Sandy Trail and Dune" is right - just tons of fun for everyone.

THE OLD ADIRONDACK SHACK high in the dunes overlooking Lake Michigan is still a favorite spot for overnight camping groups; and for those who want to go still higher there is Darer Dune, one of the tallest Dunes on the entire Lake Michigan waterfront. Overnight groups put in their food order through their leader and off they go, after night's doings, for a big and carefree night in the woods. In the morning everyone pitches in and helps to cook breakfast - fruit, toast, fried eggs, bacon and flap jacks if the group orders them, milk or cocoa - then back to camp to join with the other campers in the many interesting events of the day.

THE CHANCES ARE you will want to do a bit of bird watching going and coming. There just isn't any better bird country than the area around Camp Miniwanca. Campers last summer identified more than sixty different birds and they started a very fine

identification chart giving the name of the bird, date seen and where, so that you 1955 campers can check the birds you identify this year, and see if they are in the same general area, and at the same time, as last year.

BACK AT CAMP YOU WILL STOW YOUR GEAR AWAY in your own section of the big new tent-cabin which you will occupy this summer. Every camper will now live in enlarged quarters, and he will have a good stout floor under his feet, two and a half foot walls from floor up, a good stout canvas curtain up to the eaves and a solid roof, no leaky canvas, overhead. More new cots have been purchased, and every fellow will have a good sound cot to sleep on at rest periods and when he turns in at night after a busy and happy day in camp.

EACH AGE GROUP WILL HAVE ITS OWN VILLAGE. The tent-houses are grouped in circles or ovals, in the center of which will be a service shelter - where you can get a drink from fountain bubblers, get a bucket of fresh water for your cabin, dispose of waste water and so on. All the light lines have been put underground, so we won't have to worry about lights going out because of a loose wire. Standard wash benches have been attached to each tent-cabin and standard size mirrors also will be in place at each cabin. We've added just enough convenience to give us all the kind of service we want and need up there in those sand-dune woods. We're set for real camping now, 100% throughout the camp.

DOWN ON THE WATERFRONT some real things have been happening. The sail boat fleet is practically a new job. All the top decking has been ripped off and replaced with new cypress boards. The ribs have been replaced with oak lumber; the centerboard well has been made waterproof - to prevent water seeping into the boats. Extra heavy canvas has been stretched across the decking and given several coats of white lead and our favorite blue paint. There should be plenty of good hot competition this summer in the sailing regattas, with every boat in good trim for getting maximum speed results for their skippers.

AND AN ENTIRELY NEW FLEET OF CANOES will be on hand for those who want to learn how to paddle a canoe correctly, and enjoy the fun of skimming swiftly over the blue waters of Stony Lake.

AND WE HOPE TO HAVE CANVAS ON THE SAIL BOAT WHARF. When we do this it will mean that every foot of Camp Miniwanca swimming and boating docks will be covered with clean white canvas, extra, extra heavy - good to walk on - no splinters or wobbly boards - no slipping; and it looks like a million dollars too - a truly beautiful waterfront set-up.

BOOKS FOR THE CAMP LIBRARY Thank you for the books some of you have sent to camp. Yes, we have room for more. Most of you campers, old and new, probably have books around the house which you read years ago and now they are just taking up space. Would you like to present some of them to Camp Miniwanca? We'd be glad to accept them, and will be glad to make note of the donor on the inside front cover. Just wrap up the books and send them parcel post to Camp Miniwanca, Stony Lake, Oceana County, Michigan. You may mail them any time, and Don Pierce, who is at camp year round, will take care of them until the leaders arrive and can put them into the library. You won't forget will you? We are anxious to build up the YB Camp library.

OF COURSE WE WILL HAVE THE USUAL FINE SELECTION of books from the Michigan State Library, so you can count on good reading for some of your quiet, schedule-free periods in camp.

AND UP THERE IN THAT WONDERFUL NEW BLAZER MEMORIAL BUILDING, on the ridge overlooking Stony Lake, you can sit in the quiet library nook and read, or engage in a good game of checkers or chess, including some hot tournaments. We sure had some good chess and checker men in camp last summer. So, sharpen up, you chess and checker fans.

AND YOU CAMERA FANS, don't forget to bring your cameras. A fine camera-craft de-

partment, with excellent dark-room facilities and equipment is available to those who wish to improve their knowledge of this fine art. In the photography groups you will learn something about good composition, taking pictures, developing and printing and also enlarging. It's a good thing to know how to take good pictures.

UP ON TOP THE DUNE IN THE CRAFT HOUSE Charlie Pauck will again be on hand to help you crafters to have lots of fun making all kinds of interesting things from wood, leather, metal, plastic and many other materials. That Craft Shop is one of the busiest places on the camp grounds. Every boy will have a chance to get in on the craft program. May be you have never done any craft work. Well, here's the chance to have a try at it. Who knows, you may be a natural at handcrafts. It is mighty interesting and lots of fun.

BY ALL MEANS BRING ALONG YOUR MUSICAL INSTRUMENT, except a piano or a bass drum. Even at that, we sure would be glad to have a bass drum in the camp orchestra and band. We'll furnish the piano. But let me tell you, we sure do have some grand music from our campers, both vocal and instrumental. Dick Byrne will be on hand again to head the orchestra and band,and of course Bob Vickrey will contribute his share to the musical program. So, bring your instrument and join the musical barrage. No joking, we do have fine music at Miniwanca.

DO YOU LIKE TO TAKE PART IN A PLAY? ACTING? Well, we have a Dramatic Department that gives three or four good comedies during the camp period. Bring with you any costumes or wigs or masks - what have you! If you don't use them in a play you may be sure there will be plenty of opportunity to wear them down in Council Circle.

NOW THERE IS FUN FOR YOU - PURE UNADULTERATED FUN. The big Circle is packed - banked seats; the fire burns brightly in the center; the Chief calls the Council to order and as soon as the formalities of opening Council are over, the fun begins. Don't ask me what the boys do. Golly, no one knows until they do it, except of course the fellows who take part in the skit. For all the rest of us it's new stuff. Just about everything under the sun,just so long as it is clean fun. So brush up on your old jokes and skits;originate some new ones - get ready for big fun in Council Circle.

FISHERMEN TAKE NOTICE! Some mighty fine big fish, as well as plenty of good sized pan fish are taken out of Stony Lake and Stony Creek. For those who really like to fish, there is a fishing project group. The big ones are there if you are good enough and smart enough to land them - Small Mouth Bass up to 5½#, Pickerel up to 10,12,15# are landed every summer by fishermen in Stony Lake. Blue Gills and Black Bass,Perch,await the angler with the patience and know-how. Go to it you fishermen.

ONE THING WILL IMPRESS YOU NEW CAMPERS and that is the fact that the camp operates on the principle that every camper is included in all the activities of the camp. Just because you may not be quite as good as some other fellow in certain activities is no reason for giving preference to the good player at the expense of the other chap. Right from the very start of the camp - on the opening day in fact, every camper is given HIS place in the activities of his tribe, and from there on he is in the swim in everything that goes on.

TRIBAL GAMES AND TOURNAMENTS are in the schedule, nearly every day of camp, except Sunday. Talk about a decathlon, here you have it at its best, from a group standpoint. It's a big tournament between the tribes, with literally scores of activities entering into the contests. You may not excell in some things, but again you may find you can beat some of the experts in other activities. You will find that you have many opportunities to make a real contribution to your tribe, and to your Nation - for there is a National Tournament also. The Athletic Meet and the Aquatic Meet, as well as the sailing regattas, the fun in the Council Circle, the checker and chess tournaments, baseball, volley ball, and well, just about everything is tossed into the fray, and then on the closing night of camp everybody is sitting on the edge of his seat to see how the big five week decathlon came out.

TENNIS INSTRUCTION AND TOURNAMENTS are in the picture, and also Badminton. If you are interested in playing both games, bring your rackets and balls, so you are sure of having the kind of equipment you want for these interesting games.

ARCHERY EQUIPMENT IS FURNISHED BY THE CAMP. However, there are some of you who are good archers and you like to shoot with your own bow. If you are driving to camp, or can otherwise easily get your bow delivered to camp, we would suggest bringing your own equipment. Quite naturally, it will be used only by you. This is by way of suggestion for some of you who already have your own archery equipment.

RUTHIE STEINER WILL BE WITH US AGAIN as our dietitian, and that will bring loud cheers from the old campers who know Ruth's reputation for serving good meals. This will be the 12th summer that Ruth has been in charge of YB Commissary. OK Ruthie, here we come.

AND NURSE DOROTHY RICE will again be in charge of the YB Health Center, and again there will be a hearty "How How" from old campers. And you new campers will soon join the chorus. Haven't we been blessed with outstanding doctors and nurses!

SPEAKING OF DOCTORS, we will again have several of our Miniwanca men doctors in residence during the entire summer. Dr. Don Roberts can't make it this year because of a recent fire which burned the Roberts' residence. Don assures us he will be with us another year. Dr. Garrott Allen will again be with us for the month of July and we will have another Miniwanca camper of past years on hand to take care of our needs the first week of camp. We are hoping it will be Dr. Bob Wortmann, one of our first YB campers, back in 1930.

JOE WHITWAM, YB DIRECTOR PAR EXCELLENCE will again direct YB. A goodly number of old YB leaders will be back again, and a fine group of new leaders. Ed Clark who has been absent for several summers will be on hand for the full period of YB and will be in charge of his old CI Department. Rich Doerbaum missed last summer except for the day of the visit of the Princeton Choir. Rich is back in the line-up and will be at his old spot, Aquatic Director, and will also serve as Sr.Co-Director of the Darer Unit.

SADAO ASADA FROM KYOTO, JAPAN, a student at Carleton College, will be a member of the leadership staff. Golly, I wish we had time and space to tell you of all our leaders. But you may bank on it, they are a fine group of men. So get you ready for a fine adventure in camping, under the guidance and comradeship of a group of real leader-guys.

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE COMING ALONG SHORTLY regarding your personal camp equipment, parcel post, travel and other details. Just be sure that your folks mail or ship your gear in good time so it is sure to be at camp when you arrive. And DON'T lock your locker or duffle bag key INSIDE. Yes, it has been done.

WELL THAT'S IT. Now for a few messages from some of our leaders. It won't be long now. Camp days are just ahead. Expect great things. Plan to give of your best in all the activities of the camp, and you may be sure that your days at Miniwanca will be rich and full and happy.

Miniwancally yours,

Wadsworth

P. G. Orwig, Director

Hi Gang!

Just a few short weeks and we will all be together again for another great camping experience in YB. That opening date is June 22nd, and from the moment you arrive, you will be enjoying the fellowship of a fine bunch of college men leaders and other young fellows just like you.

We old campers and leaders look forward to renewing our friendships and eagerly wait to share with you new campers and leaders the fun, work, and play of the best five weeks anyone could enjoy.

More changes have been made in the YB facilities to make it better than ever. Each unit will now have its own area surrounded by the tent-cabins for that unit. You old campers will have to explore all over again, for YB moves ever ahead.

Our program shows new activities for 1955. So all together we look forward to the finest camping season ever. Sailing, swimming, ball games, nights doings, Christian Ideals, assemblies, handicrafts, interest groups, special days and special nights, Lake Michigan, overnight on the beach, and many, many more activities are on tap for you----------See you soon, the 22nd of June.

Cordially,

Joe Whiteman

Director Younger Boys Camp

Dear Younger Boys, Leaders, and Friends at Camp Miniwanca:

Our season for camping is approaching rapidly. Aren't you all getting excited?

As many of you former campers know, I am a school nurse in St. Louis. At this time we are working long and hard on the nation-wide Salk Polio Vaccination program, endeavoring to have all first and second grade children inoculated with their first two shots before the end of the school term. There are eight hundred of these children classified to receive these inoculations in the four schools which I serve as nurse. We are all pleased to be a small part of this wonderful movement, and grateful, indeed, to all the men and women who had a part in giving to our children this protection.

I hope you have had a happy winter. I am looking forward with pleasure to our five weeks at Camp Miniwanca. It will be so nice to see all of you.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Rice

* * *

Hi Fellows!

It won't be long now. Old man winter has rolled up his white carpet and put it away for another year; spring is displaying her brightest and fullest colors at this very moment; and soon summer's long warm days will be toasting the sands of Miniwanca. When I think of all the wonderful times we'll have together, I surely do get eager to be up there. How about you?

Just imagine how great it will be to make lots of new friends and see old buddies, to feel the solid whack as bat meets ball down on the diamond, to let the sand trickle through our toes on top of Baldy, and to buck the crashing waves as they roll into the beach off Lake Michigan.

I can already taste that good chow and plenty of it in the Eating Lodge. Think how we'll laugh until we almost burst at the surprises in store on special days. Oh,

we'll feel the spray on our faces as we sail Stony Lake and swim in its blue waters. There are so many terrific skills and ideas we can learn in interest groups and Christian Ideals classes. And how inspiring it will be to listen intently as our leaders bring us close to God on Vesper Dune.

Are you as anxious as I am for that day when Y.B. begins? June 22nd is the big day. I'll see you then!

RICH DOERBAUM

Hi Campers - It's a real pleasure to say hello in advance to you fellows who are coming to Camp Miniwanca for the first time.

You can look forward to having lots of fun, meeting many other fine boys from all over the country, enjoying the camp sports program, singing the camp songs and doing many other fine things.

You're going to think that this summer is the finest you have ever had, and you'll see why many of us like to keep on coming back to Miniwanca year after year.

I'm looking forward to returning to Miniwanca this year to renew old acquaintances and make many fine new ones.

CHARLES HUNTINGTON

Hi Gang - Well it won't be long now. My trunk is already packed. Just the thought of the sand and sea and the great times at camp will help drag the leaders through their final exams. I know we're all looking forward to the beach parties on Michigan, the council fires, the hikes, games, and certainly Vespers.

So, you guys get packed up and be ready to ramble, and I'll see you all soon "on the sand dunes of Miniwanca."

RICHARD BYRNE

Ahoy Campers and Leaders! - May.....June.....Gosh, not much time! Pack up your swim trunks,ball glove,and "sand-blasters" because,"Miniwanca, here we come!"

Here's a tip for all of you new campers. Let your troubles disappear when you hit the sand dunes of Miniwanca, for there's a great bunch of campers and leaders there to make it the most enjoyable and profitable summer you have ever spent.

You old campers and leaders have to lead the way and help JOE along with his great "Four-Square" program planning.

Time is moving fast, and I'm sure you're all looking forward to climbing "Old Baldy", sailing on Stony Lake, and spending a quiet and thoughtful hour on Vesper Dune. I'm just as anxious as you. See you in June.

RICH BELL

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NEWS OF CAMPERS...WAYNE GIVENS and JIM ELLIOTT are among 9 representatives chosen from the Chicago area to represent the YMCA at a Paris Youth Conference this summer. They will also tour England, Italy and Switzerland...ROBIN URMSTON was cited recently for his good newspaper work. We quote: "We have been fortunate enough to have a few lads who were as good as Robin in delivering newspapers, but there never have been any that were better. Robin has handled one of our largest routes without any customer complaints. He has saved money and paid his bill on time."...Former leader, DAVE WARREN graduates soon from Princeton Theological Seminary. He has accepted the pastorate of the Grace Presbyterian Church in St. Louis...MALCOLM DOUBLES will next year be an exchange student at University of Montpelier in France...Mr. A.J. Osmany, of Allahabad, India, would like some Pen Pals. He can be addressed at 23 M.B. House, Allahabad University, Allahabad, India.

WELCOME New Campers

James Auer, St. Louis, Mo.
David Awbrey, Pittsfield, Ill.
David Barker, Thorntown, Ind.
Bruce Barnhart, Richmond, Ind.
James Bauer, Syracuse, N. Y.
Stephen Black, Kirkwood, Mo.
Bill Blakemore, Chicago, Ill.
John Blakemore, Columbia, Mo.
Jack Brandt, Lakewood, Ohio
Bill Butterfield, Champaign, Ill.
John Carson, Cleveland, Ohio
William Clements, New Castle, Ind.
William Cole, Kirkwood, Mo.
Richard Conrad, Kirkwood, Mo.
Robert Covington, St. Louis, Mo.
John Derby, Peterborough, N.H.
David Diehl, Dansville, Mich.
James Dole, Dayton, Ohio
David Dorre, Clarendon Hills, Ill.
John Dube, Chesterfield, Mo.
John Dudley, Battle Creek, Mich.
John Eaton, Hingham, Mass.
Earl Evans, Kansas City, Mo.
Robert Flynn, Glendale, Mo.
Anthony Gilkes, St. Louis, Mo.
Robert Haas, Lakewood, Ohio
Scott Hagelbarger, Fairview Park, Ohio
James Harris, Birmingham, Ala.
Rodney Hart, Columbus, Ohio
John Healey, DeKalb, Ill.
Richard Heinsen, Riverside, Ill.
David Hencke, Webster Groves, Mo.
David Herbruck, Cleveland Hgts.,Ohio
Stephen Hopkins, Kirkwood, Mo.
David Huntington, Spartanburg, S.C.
Harry Johnson, Locust, N. J.
Michael Kennedy, Palo Alto, Calif.
Douglas Kline, Dayton, Ohio
Gerald Kuhl, Davenport, Iowa
John Kunst, Dayton, Ohio
John Lane, New Castle, Ind.
Richard Leff, Hinsdale, Ill.
Thomas Leff, Hinsdale, Ill.
Harry Leschen, Webster Groves, Mo.
James Light, Kalamazoo, Mich.
John Losse, Webster Groves, Mo.
Chappie Lougheed, Ottumwa, Iowa
James McNabb, Baldwin, N. Y.
Richard Melcher, Birmingham, Mich.
Charles Mill, St. Louis, Mo.
John Miller, Hudson, Ohio
Richard Monroe, Netherlands West Indies
Carl Mueller, Pittsfield, Ill.
John Mullin, Webster Groves, Mo.
Charles Newton, Ann Arbor, Mich.
David Newton, Ann Arbor, Mich.
William Newton, Ann Arbor, Mich.
Charles Nies, Webster Groves, Mo.
William Norris, Webster Groves, Mo.
David Nutting, Midland, Mich.
David Ouellette, Evansville, Ind.
Robert Ouellette, Evansville, Ind.
Robert Paul, Cambridge City, Ind.
Edward Peters, Glendale, Mo.
Douglas Petersen, Kansas City, Mo.
Allan Poths, Venetia, Pa.
Steve Powell, Kirkwood, Mo.
David Pratt, Kirkwood, Mo.
Philip Prosser, Charleston, W. Va.
Gregory Recker, Kirkwood, Mo.
John Roadhouse, Toledo, Ohio
Clark Robbins, Webster Groves, Mo.
James Robison, Webster Groves, Mo.
Leon Robison, Webster Groves, Mo.
Douglas Rose, Decatur, Mich.
Andy Sale, Charleston, W. Va.
William Sale, Charleston, W. Va.
William Schoening, Maplewood, Mo.
James Scott, LaGrange, Ill.
Donald Sedenka, Washington, Pa.
Bill Skow, Toledo, Ohio
Robert Spitzer, Oak Park, Ill.
Charles Taylor, Burlington, N. J.
David Teegarden, Dayton, Ohio
Neill Thompson, Clayton, Mo.
William Vahle, Webster Groves, Mo.
John Van Kirk, Dayton, Ohio
Donald Vivian, New Castle, Ind.
James Walker, University City, Mo.
William Werber, St. Louis, Mo.
Paul Wright, Berea, Kentucky
David Yates, Normandy, Mo.

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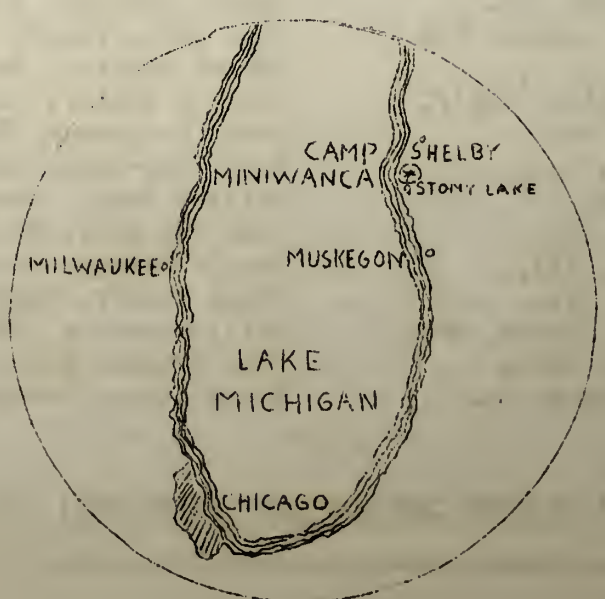
YOUNGER
BOYS CAMP
JUNE 22
TO
JULY 27



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